

to an employee's residence. The Administrator shall establish the limitation in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. For fiscal years 1997 and 1998, the maximum amount shall be the amount equal to five percent of the sale price of the residence.

(Added Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title XVII, § 1717, Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2757.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 180 days after Sept. 23, 1996, see section 1725(a) of Pub. L. 104-201, set out as an Effective Date of 1996 Amendment note under section 5722 of this title.

§ 5757.¹ Payment of expenses to obtain professional credentials

(a) An agency may use appropriated funds or funds otherwise available to the agency to pay for—

(1) expenses for employees to obtain professional credentials, including expenses for professional accreditation, State-imposed and professional licenses, and professional certification; and

(2) examinations to obtain such credentials.

(b) The authority under subsection (a) may not be exercised on behalf of any employee occupying or seeking to qualify for appointment to any position that is excepted from the competitive service because of the confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character of the position.

(Added Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title XI, § 1112(a), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1238.)

§ 5757.¹ Extended assignment incentive

(a) The head of an Executive agency may pay an extended assignment incentive to an employee if—

(1) the employee has completed at least 2 years of continuous service in 1 or more civil service positions located in a territory or possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(2) the agency determines that replacing the employee with another employee possessing the required qualifications and experience would be difficult; and

(3) the agency determines it is in the best interest of the Government to encourage the employee to complete a specified additional period of employment with the agency in the territory or possession, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, except that the total amount of service performed in a particular territory, commonwealth, or possession under 1 or more agreements established under this section may not exceed 5 years.

(b) The sum of extended assignment incentive payments for a service period may not exceed the greater of—

(1) an amount equal to 25 percent of the annual rate of basic pay of the employee at the

beginning of the service period, times the number of years in the service period; or

(2) \$15,000 per year in the service period.

(c)(1) Payment of an extended assignment incentive shall be contingent upon the employee entering into a written agreement with the agency specifying the period of service and other terms and conditions under which the extended assignment incentive is payable.

(2) The agreement shall set forth the method of payment, including any use of an initial lump-sum payment, installment payments, or a final lump-sum payment upon completion of the entire period of service.

(3) The agreement shall describe the conditions under which the extended assignment incentive may be canceled prior to the completion of agreed-upon service period and the effect of the cancellation. The agreement shall require that if, at the time of cancellation of the incentive, the employee has received incentive payments which exceed the amount which bears the same relationship to the total amount to be paid under the agreement as the completed service period bears to the agreed-upon service period, the employee shall repay that excess amount, at a minimum, except that an employee who is involuntarily reassigned to a position stationed outside the territory, commonwealth, or possession or involuntarily separated (not for cause on charges of misconduct, delinquency, or inefficiency) may not be required to repay any excess amounts.

(d) An agency may not put an extended assignment incentive into effect during a period in which the employee is fulfilling a recruitment or relocation bonus service agreement under section 5753 or for which an employee is receiving a retention allowance under section 5754.

(e) Extended assignment incentive payments may not be considered part of the basic pay of an employee.

(f) The Office of Personnel Management may prescribe regulations for the administration of this section, including regulations on an employee's entitlement to retain or receive incentive payments when an agreement is canceled. Neither this section nor implementing regulations may impair any agency's independent authority to administratively determine compensation for a class of its employees.

(Added Pub. L. 107-273, div. A, title II, § 207(a)(1), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1779.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after 6 months after Nov. 2, 2002, see section 207(c) of Pub. L. 107-273, set out as an Effective Date of 2002 Amendment note under section 5307 of this title.

REPORT

Pub. L. 107-273, div. A, title II, § 207(d), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1780, provided that: "No later than 3 years after the effective date of this section [see Effective Date note above], the Office of Personnel Management, after consultation with affected agencies, shall submit a report to Congress assessing the effectiveness of the extended assignment incentive authority as a human resources management tool and making recommendations for any changes necessary to improve the effectiveness of the incentive authority. Each agency shall

¹ Another section 5757 is set out after this section.

¹ Another section 5757 is set out preceding this section.

maintain such records and report such information, including the number and size of incentive offers made and accepted or declined by geographic location and occupation, in such format and at such times as the Office of Personnel Management may prescribe, for use in preparing the report.”

§ 5759.¹ Retention and relocation bonuses for the Federal Bureau of Investigation

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may pay, on a case-by-case basis, a bonus under this section to an employee of the Bureau if—

(1)(A) the unusually high or unique qualifications of the employee or a special need of the Bureau for the employee’s services makes it essential to retain the employee; and

(B) the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation determines that, in the absence of such a bonus, the employee would be likely to leave—

- (i) the Federal service; or
- (ii) for a different position in the Federal service; or

(2) the individual is transferred to a different geographic area with a higher cost of living (as determined by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation).

(b) **SERVICE AGREEMENT.**—Payment of a bonus under this section is contingent upon the employee entering into a written service agreement with the Bureau to complete a period of service with the Bureau. Such agreement shall include—

(1) the period of service the individual shall be required to complete in return for the bonus; and

(2) the conditions under which the agreement may be terminated before the agreed-upon service period has been completed, and the effect of the termination.

(c) **LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.**—A bonus paid under this section may not exceed 50 percent of the employee’s basic pay.

(d) **IMPACT ON BASIC PAY.**—A retention bonus is not part of the basic pay of an employee for any purpose.

(e) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority to grant bonuses under this section shall cease to be available after December 31, 2009.

(Added Pub. L. 108-447, div. B, title I, §113(a), Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2868.)

§ 5760. Travel and transportation allowances: transportation of family members incident to the repatriation of employees held captive

(a) **ALLOWANCE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND CERTAIN OTHERS.**—(1) Under uniform regulations prescribed by the heads of agencies, travel and transportation described in subsection (d) may be provided for not more than 3 family members of an employee described in subsection (b).

(2) In addition to the family members authorized to be provided travel and transportation under paragraph (1), the head of an agency may

provide travel and transportation described in subsection (d) to an attendant to accompany a family member described in subsection (b) if the head of an agency determines—

(A) the family member to be accompanied is unable to travel unattended because of age, physical condition, or other reason determined by the head of the agency; and

(B) no other family member who is eligible for travel and transportation under subsection (a) is able to serve as an attendant for the family member.

(3) If no family member of an employee described in subsection (b) is able to travel to the repatriation site of the employee, travel and transportation described in subsection (d) may be provided to not more than 2 persons related to and selected by the employee.

(b) **COVERED EMPLOYEES.**—An employee described in this subsection is an employee (as defined in section 2105 of this title) who—

(1) was held captive, as determined by the head of an agency concerned; and

(2) is repatriated to a site inside or outside the United States.

(c) **ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS.**—In this section, the term “family member” has the meaning given the term in section 411h(b) of title 37.

(d) **TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED.**—(1) The transportation authorized by subsection (a) is round-trip transportation between the home of the family member (or home of the attendant or person provided transportation under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), as the case may be) and the location of the repatriation site at which the employee is located.

(2) In addition to the transportation authorized by subsection (a), the head of an agency may provide a per diem allowance or reimbursement for the actual and necessary expenses of the travel, or a combination thereof, but not to exceed the rates established for such allowances and expenses under section 404(d) of title 37.

(3) The transportation authorized by subsection (a) may be provided by any of the means described in section 411h(d)(1) of title 37.

(4) An allowance under this subsection may be paid in advance.

(5) Reimbursement payable under this subsection may not exceed the cost of government-procured round-trip air travel.

(Added Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title XI, §1121(a), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3451.)

CHAPTER 59—ALLOWANCES

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¹ So in original. No section 5758 has been enacted.